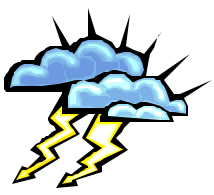
TRI-STATE COOP

Volunteers Serving the Nation's Weather Needs SPRING 2003

Inside This Edition

SPOTTER TRAINING

Dave Floyd, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at Goodland conducted 19 sessions of basic and 3 advanced classes of spring spotter training. In all over 600 people participated, and many thought provoking questions were asked.



The National Weather Service Office in Goodland has undergone some staffing changes over the past few months and we would like to take a moment to introduce ourselves.

Larry Boyd – Coop Program Manager, arrived via Memphis,

Tennessee in June of 2002. Vic Stegemiller arrived in October by way of Seattle, Washington; Peggy Alander arrived in December from Key West, Florida; and Trent Smith came to Goodland in February from the University of Northern Colorado

Spring Has Sprung!

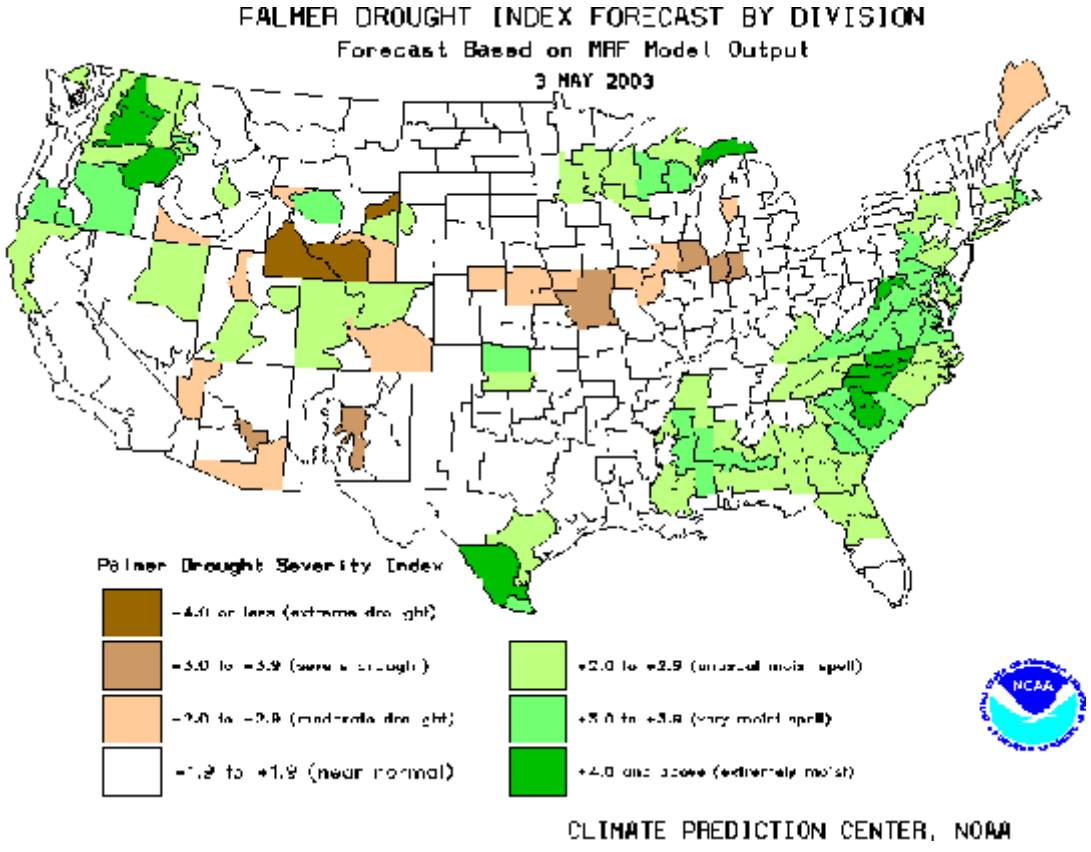
And Mother Nature is providing the Plains area with some much needed and appreciated rainfall. Keep in mind that thunderstorms can quickly turn severe. Keep abreast of the latest weather conditions and forecasts by tuning your NOAA weather radio to 162.400 MHZ in Rawlins, Decatur, Sherman, Thomas, Sheridan, Wallace, Logan, Gove and Cheyenne KS, counties; 162.525 MHZ in Kit Carson and Cheyenne CO; 162.425 MHZ in Norton, Phillips and Graham counties; 162.500 MHZ in Hayes, Hitchcock and Red Willow counties and 162.475 MHZ in Yuma and Dundy counties.

THE PALMER DROUGHT SEVERITY INDEX

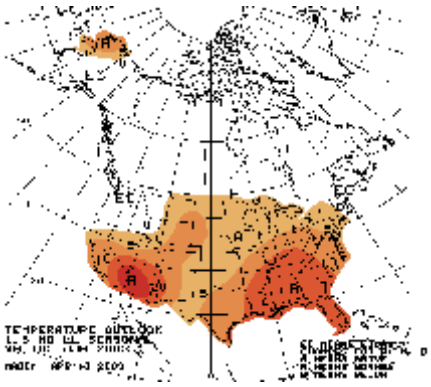
The Palmer Index was developed by Wayne Palmer in the 1960s and uses temperature and rainfall information in a formula to determine dryness. It is most effective in determining long term drought. It uses 0 as a normal, and drought is shown in terms of minus numbers.

Extreme or Severe Drought	Less than or equal to -3.0
Moderate Drought	Greater than -3.0 and less than or equal to -2.0
Mild Drought	Greater than -2.0 and less than or equal to -1.0
Near Normal or Incipient	Greater than -1.0 and less than +1.0
Moist Spell	Greater than or equal to +1.0 and less than +2.0
Unusual Moist Spell	Greater than or equal to +2.0 and less than +3.0
Very or Extreme Moist	Greater than or equal to +3.0

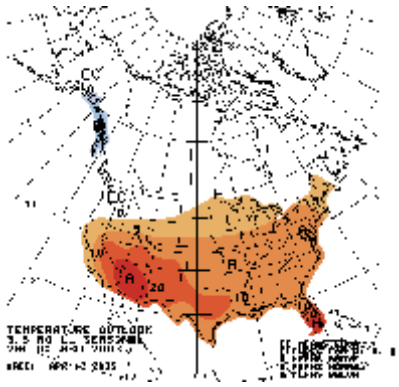
The advantage of the Palmer Index is that it is standardized to local climate, so it can be applied to any part of the country to demonstrate relative drought or rainfall conditions. It works best east of the Continental Divide as it does not calculate supplies of water locked up in snow.



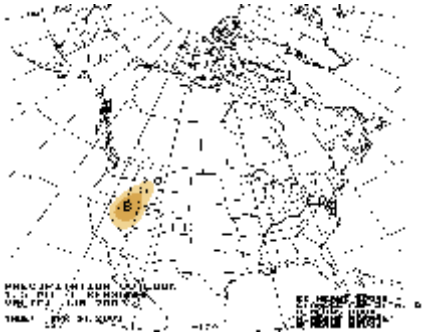
Seasonal Outlooks

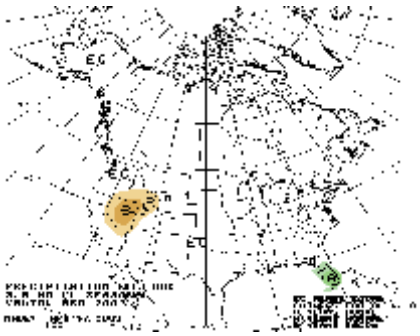


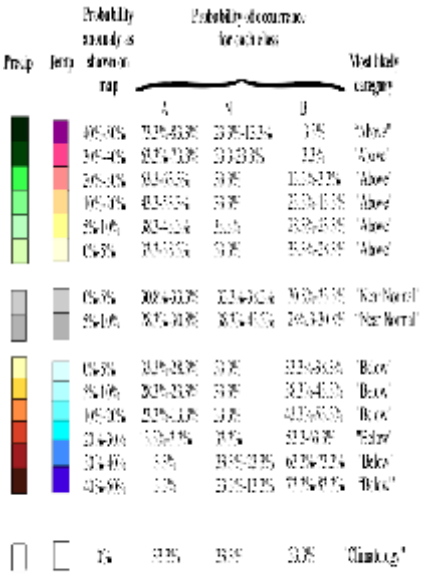
June - August



August- October







Did You Know???

- 1,800 thunderstorms occur at any moment around the world.
- Tornadoes cause an average of 70 fatalities and 1,500 injuries per year.
- Lightning occurs with all thunderstorms.
- There is no such thing as heat lightning. What you see is actually lightning from a thunderstorm that is too far away to hear.
- Hail causes more than $1 billion in crop and property damage yearly.
- Tornadoes produce winds in excess of 250 mph.
- Flash floods and floods are the #1 cause of deaths associated with thunderstorms…more than 140 fatalities per year.
- Straight-line winds are responsible for most thunderstorm wind damage and can exceed 100 mph.

Safety Tips

Lightning

- Do not take shelter in small sheds, under trees or in convertible automobiles. Stay away from tall objects such as towers, fences, telephone poles and power lines.
- When in an automobile avoid touching any metal.
- If you feel your skin tingle or hair stand on end, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands over your ears and your head between your knees. Make yourself the smallest target possible and minimize your contract with the ground. Do Not Lie Down!

Flash Floods

- Do not attempt to cross any flooded areas. Even 6 inches of swift moving water can knock you off your feet.
- Do not let children play near storm drains

Tornadoes

- Move to a pre-designated shelter, such as a basement. Stay away from windows.
- Mobile homes offer little protection from tornadoes. Leave and go to the lowest floor of a sturdy building or storm shelter.
- Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car. Leave it immediately for safe shelter, such as a ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands.

Listen To Your NOAA Weather Radio for Current Information and Warnings

Spring and Summer Measuring Tips

If you have a Fischer/Porter rain gauge, now is the time to replace the funnel in the top housing. If you have a standard 8-inch rain gauge place the inner measuring tube and funnel inside the gauge. This will make observing easier and keep moisture from evaporating. Measurable liquid precipitation is recorded to the nearest one hundredth of an inch, while non measurable amounts (trace) is recorded as a T. Don't forget to annotate the 24 hour amount on your B91.

Help Us Out!

You can be of even greater service to us by reporting severe weather conditions in your area. Please call in any sightings you have of tornadoes, funnel clouds, wall clouds, wind damage, wind speeds in excess of 58 mph, or hail dime size or larger. Your information can help forecasters make vital warning decisions, and may help save lives and property. Don't forget to enter this information on your B91. This can help the office verify warnings that were issued during severe weather. The number to call is 1-800-272-7811.

Thank You!

We would like to take this opportunity to THANK YOU for your efforts. We understand that on some days it is difficult to leave your nice cozy home and brave the outdoor elements. Your data is not only used for real-time purposes, it is utilized by your state climatologist, and the climatologists at the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, North Carolina. Your data has helped farmers get funding during droughts and floods, has helped people win lawsuits, and has helped form the largest climatological database of weather in the world! Again, we would like to thank you for your efforts and would like you to know that

YOU ARE WHAT MAKES THIS PROGRAM WORK!

Contact Us At:

785-899-7119

1-800-272-7811

www.crh.noaa.gov/gld

AWARDS

Congratulations to Lee and John Arnold of Norton, Kansas who received their 25 year awards. Pictured from left to right are: Lee Arnold, Larry Boyd and John Arnold.

Congratulations to Mrs. Louise Vance of Eckley, Colorado who received her 20 year service award!

Welcome Back to Mr. Charles Hickman of Goodland 19SW. We've missed you!

Congratulations to Mr. Louis Box of Arapahoe 14N who will be completing Lineman school this month.

And last but not least, congratulations to all of the High School Seniors who are graduating this month!